

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 275245

63

ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY M:FSPOTTS:JW

APPROVED BY M:LSEAGLEBURGER

FSI - MR. BRODERICK

FSI - DR. FRITH

NEA/EGY - MR. MATHEWS

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275245

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: AFSI OGEN EG

SUBJ: RELOCATION OF FSI ARABIC LANGUAGE PROGRAM TO CAIRO

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1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN ARABIC LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM IN CAIRO. AS STATED IN STATE 249770, WE CONSIDER CAIRO THE MOST FEASIBLE PERMANENT SITE FOR ARABIC TRAINING AND ARE NOT CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ANY OTHER LOCATION.

2. HOWEVER, IN A CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH SOLLENBERGER AND OTHER FSI STAFF MEMBERS, DR. BEDAWI EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF AUC'S TAKING CHARGE OF THE PROGRAM. WHILE THE DISCUSSION WAS VERY FRIENDLY, BEDAWI MADE CLEAR THAT BOTH HE AND THE AUC ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CONCERNED OVER THE PRESENCE OF FSI LANGUAGE STUDENTS ON THE AUC CAMPUS. HE DESCRIBED THIS ISSUE AS A "POLITICAL HOT POTATO." HE ALSO REFERRED TO OTHER PROBLEMS (TEACHER SHORTAGE, SPACE PROBLEMS AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS) BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATION IS MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 275245

IMPORTANT. HE SAID HIS VIEW IS SHARED BY THE AUC

ADMINISTRATION. BEDAWI'S RESERVATIONS, WHICH WE CANNOT ASSESS AND WHICH ARE DECIDEDLY MORE SERIOUS THAN THOSE EXPRESSED TO YOU BY BYRD, RAISE QUESTION WHETHER AUC CAN OR WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE FSI PROGRAM.

3. NONETHELESS, WE STILL BELIEVE YOU SHOULD PURSUE YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AUC TO SEE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE QUICKLY TO WORK OUT AN AUC-INTEGRATED TRAINING PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. WE BELIEVE IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF SOLLENBERGER WERE TO COME TO CAIRO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH YOU AND THE AUC STAFF.

4. IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH AUC, YOU MAY BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING VIEWS WHICH ARE THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD MEET FOREIGN SERVICE NEEDS.

(A) CURRICULUM -- WE WOULD WANT OVERALL AGREEMENT ON A CURRICULUM. WE GATHER FROM CAIRO 11457 THAT FSI VIEWS AND THOSE OF AUC ON PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE NOT FAR APART.

(B) INSTRUCTION -- WE BELIEVE SEPARATE CLASSES FOR FSI STUDENTS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE BULK OF THE PROGRAM ALTHOUGH SOME OUTSTANDING STUDENTS MIGHT ENROLL IN REGULAR UNIVERSITY CLASSES CONDUCTED IN ARABIC. CAIRO 11457 AND CAIRO 11607 SUGGEST THAT SEPARATE CLASSES ARE POSSIBLE.

(C) INSTRUCTORS -- WE ACCEPT AUC'S INSISTENCE ON USING EGYPTIAN INSTRUCTORS, BUT NOTE BEDAWI'S COMMENTS ON TEACHER SHORTAGE.

(D) ASSOCIATION WITH AUC -- WE UNDERSTAND BYRD'S RESERVATION ABOUT ANY FORM OF FSI IDENTIFICATION WITH AUC AND WE WOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT OUR STUDENTS WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN AUTONOMOUS UNIT WITHIN AUC.

(E) FSI MONITORING -- THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 275245

DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND WE THINK IT MUST BE FULLY CLARIFIED TO PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON EITHER SIDE. WE BELIEVE FSI MUST HAVE SOME ROLE IN OVERSEEING STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND PROGRESS AND IN BEING ASSURED THAT OUR SPECIAL NEEDS ARE BEING MET BY THE CONTENT AND METHOD OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM. WE CAN AGREE THAT THE FSI MONITOR WOULD NOT BE A MEMBER OF AUC STAFF AND ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL TO ATTACH HIM TO THE EMBASSY. THE ISSUE

TO BE SETTLED IS THE EXTENT OF HIS ROLE.

5. HOWEVER, IF AUC SHOULD NOT WANT TO ACCEPT FSI STUDENTS FOR THE REASONS MENTIONED IN CAIRO 11607 PARA 4 OR FOR THE REASONS GIVEN BY BEDAWI, WE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INDEPENDENT FSI PROGRAM IN CAIRO.

6. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE LANGUAGE PROGRAM AND HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO GUIDE THIS MATTER ALONG.

7. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT A VISIT BY SOLLENBERGER IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU. KISSINGER

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